

Appendix A: Addressing Issues Related to COVID-19 in the School Setting

The state of RI, through RIDE and the DOH, has issued guidelines for handling possible COVID-19 cases, and for students and teachers/staff who test positive. Details can be found at reopeningri.com in the “Outbreak Response Protocols: Pre-K-12.”

Important categories:

Probable case (CDC)

Any one of these symptoms: *cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell*

OR

Two of these symptoms: *fever, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose*

- School nurse teacher documents in portal for RIDOH
- Symptomatic person sent home with attestation form, isolated at school if has to wait for parent/guardian to pick them up.
- No action for close contacts while awaiting test result.
- Symptomatic person needs to seek medical advice.
- COVID test required.
- Attestation from parent/guardian documents either
 - 1) Negative test, fever-free 24 hrs and back to usual state of health/symptoms improved OR
 - 2) Tested positive and met guidelines for ending isolation.

Symptomatic but not probable case

They could have one of these symptoms but not two (*fever, chills, muscle aches, headache, sore throat, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, congestion or runny nose*) or an unlisted symptom; and none of these: *cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, new loss of taste or smell*.

- School nurse teacher documents in portal for RIDOH
- Student or staff is sent home with attestation form (see Appendix B), isolated if has to wait for parent/guardian pickup
- No quarantine recommended
- Must seek medical advice and be tested if recommended by health provider

Attestation form must document either:

- 1) tested negative
- 2) has been fever-free 24 hours and other symptom(s) improved/back to usual health
- 3) tested positive and met guidelines for ending isolation

Positive COVID-19 case

- Person is isolated per CDC/RIDOH guidelines
- Close contacts quarantined 14 days since last exposure
- Close contacts in quarantine self-monitor, seek medical advice/test if recommended by RIDOH/healthcare provider
- Close contacts who tested positive in past 90 days do not need to quarantine
- Person who tests positive, if symptomatic, isolates until fever free 24 hr, symptoms improved, 10 days since appearance of symptoms (20 days if severely immunocompromised)
- If asymptomatic when tested positive, isolates 10 days since specimen collection (20 days if severely immunocompromised)